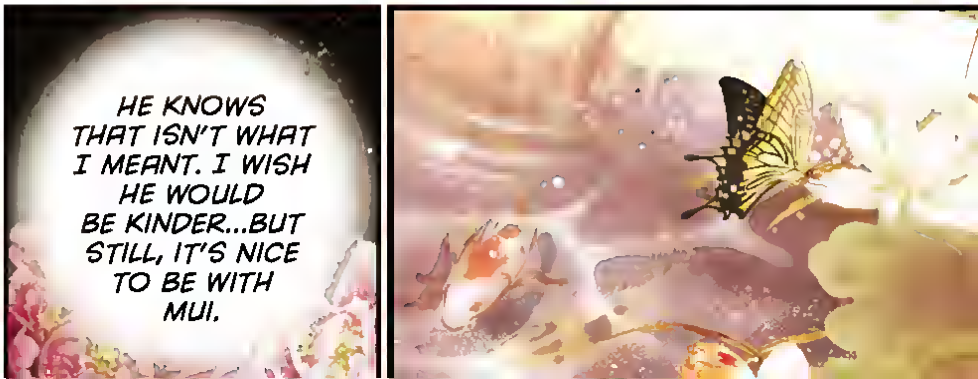
윤미경
Yun Mi Kyung
10
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

I HEARD THAT YOU WANTED TO PICK SOME FLOWERS FOR HABAEK. IF YOU WANT TO GO, HURRY UP AND GET READY.
ARE YOU TAKING ME THERE, MUI? WHAT ABOUT HABAEK?

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE I'M HERE INSTEAD OF HIM?


HE KNOWS THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT. I WISH HE WOULD BE KINDER...BUT STILL, IT'S NICE TO BE WITH MUI.

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

story and art by

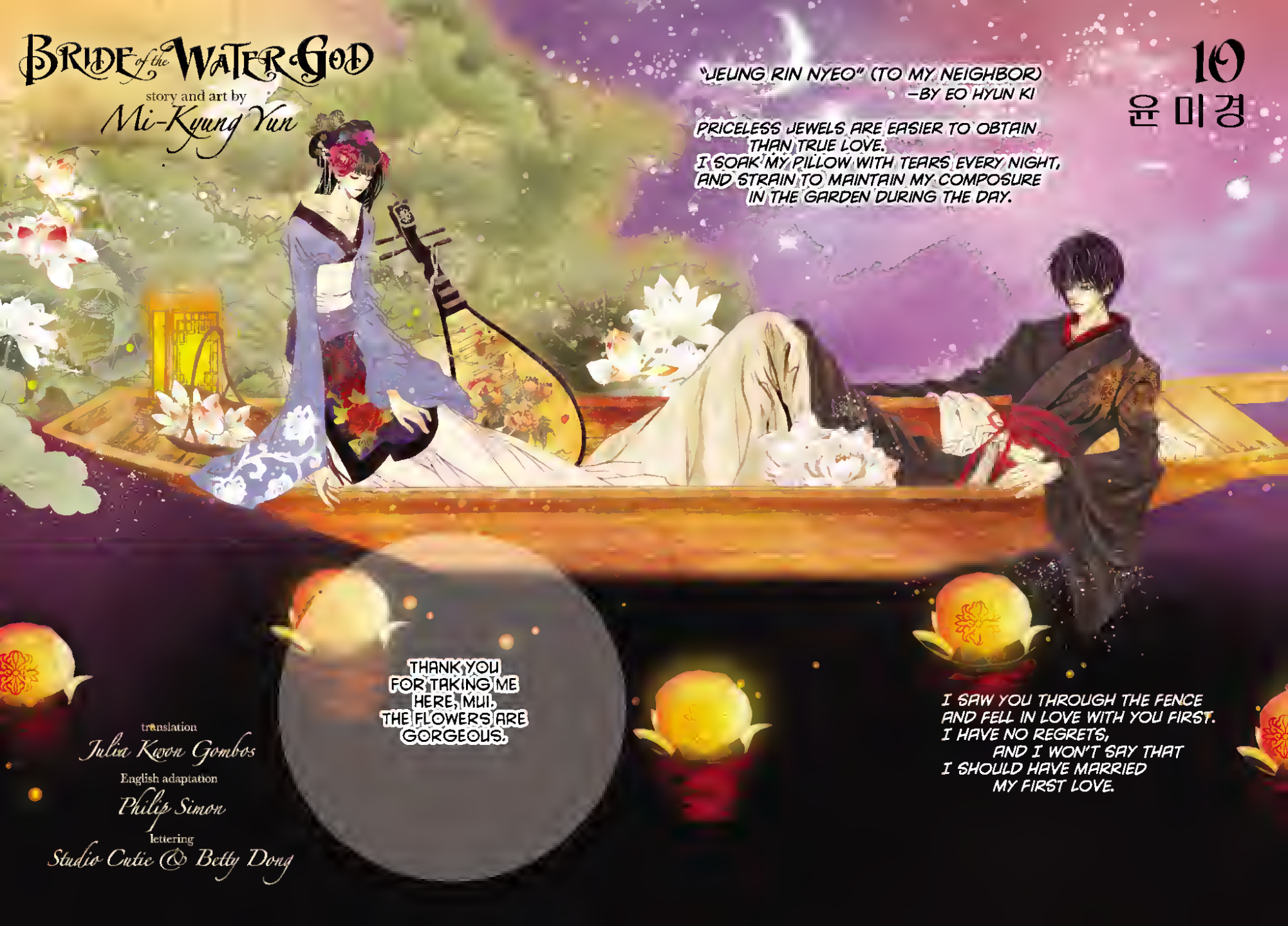
Mi-Kyung Yun

10

윤미경

"JEUNG RIN NYEO" (TO MY NEIGHBOR)
–BY EO HYUN KI

PRICELESS JEWELS ARE EASIER TO OBTAIN
THAN TRUE LOVE.
I SOAK MY PILLOW WITH TEARS EVERY NIGHT,
AND STRAIN TO MAINTAIN MY COMPOSURE
IN THE GARDEN DURING THE DAY.



THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME HERE, MUI. THE FLOWERS ARE GORGEOUS.

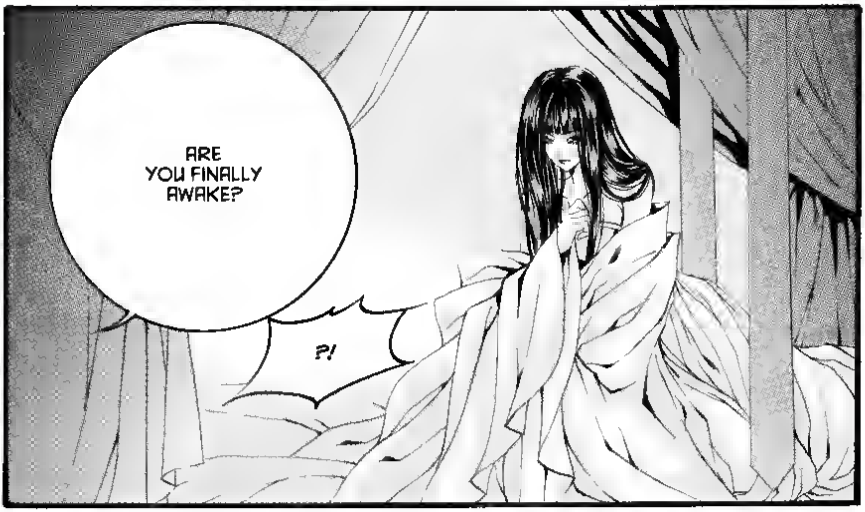
I SAW YOU THROUGH THE FENCE
AND FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU FIRST.
I HAVE NO REGRETS,
AND I WON'T SAY THAT
I SHOULD HAVE MARRIED
MY FIRST LOVE.

translation
Julia Kwon Gombos
English adaptation
Philip Simon
lettering
Studio Cutie & Betty Dong

I DON'T KNOW...
I PREFER THE FLOWER THAT SPEAKS.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I COULDN'T BRING HABAEK WITH ME.
THAT'S *UNFORTUNATE*. BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S JUST... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO WANG-MO.
BY THE WAY, WHY IS THAT WOMAN OVER THERE?
AH... SHE IS...

SOMETHING SMELLS AMAZING...
WITCH
벌덕


ARE YOU FINALLY AWAKE?
?!

WHO ARE--

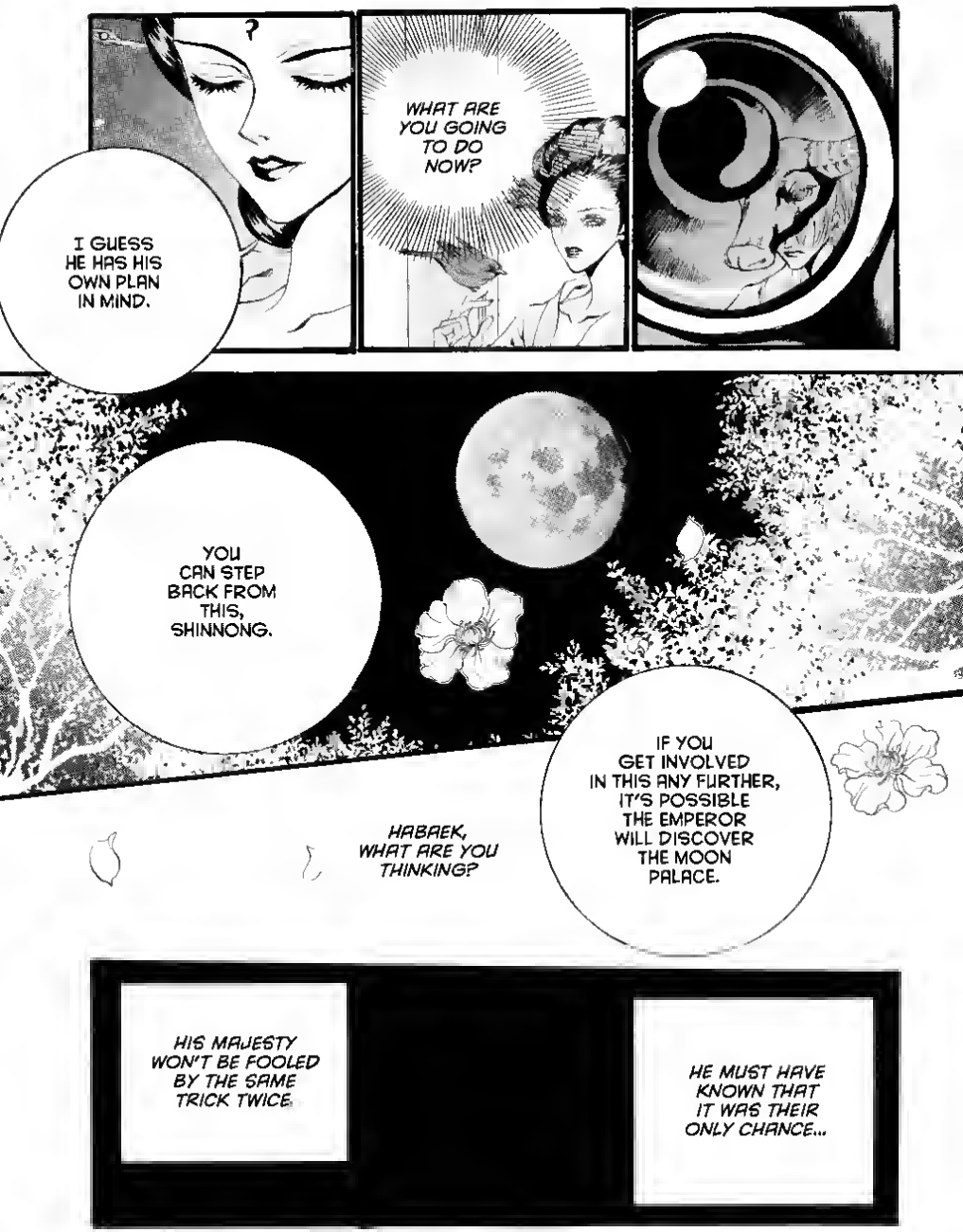
I WAS ABOUT TO TRY TO WAKE YOU. YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE VERY RUDE. HOW COULD YOU BRING ME HERE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
HEY, WAIT! LISTEN TO ME FIRST!
I'M *LEAVING!* TAKE ME BACK WHERE YOU FOUND ME!
IF YOU REFUSE, I WILL GO BY MYSELF!
?!

IT'D BE *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR YOU TO GO BY YOURSELF.
WHERE... AM I?
THIS IS...
THIS IS AN *ISLAND*, A STEPPINGSTONE ALONG THE PATH TO THE SUN.

WELCOME TO THE CASTLE ON THE MOON, SOAH.
KROOM
KOOM

FWUPPA
FWUPPA
HABAEK DID THAT? WELL... IF THAT'S SO, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I AM SORRY THAT THINGS ENDED UP THIS WAY. I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
BUT HIS DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. HIS WILL IS UNSHAKABLE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING HIM.


?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I GUESS HE HAS HIS OWN PLAN IN MIND.
YOU CAN STEP BACK FROM THIS, SHINNONG.
IF YOU GET INVOLVED IN THIS ANY FURTHER, IT'S POSSIBLE THE EMPEROR WILL DISCOVER THE MOON PALACE.
HABAEK, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
HIS MAJESTY WON'T BE FOOLED BY THE SAME TRICK TWICE.
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT IT WAS THEIR ONLY CHANCE...

THE EMPEROR WILL HAVE HIS GUARD UP. HE'S GOING TO BE AS ALERT AS A HAWK NOW.
?
I GUESS THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY LEFT TO SAVE HABAEK.
I WILL GO TO THE PALACE ON MY OWN.

KRAKOOM
SPSHAAA
I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE REBELS SNEAKED IN AND MADE SUCH A *MESS* OF THE PALACE.
FWSHH

HABAEK, MIGHT YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?

NO. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

OKAY... IF YOU SAY SO. I TRUST YOU. YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE REBEL FORCES, YOUR MAJESTY?
HE TOLD ME THAT BIRYEOM WAS HIS FRIEND. HE *MUST* KNOW WHERE THE REBELS ARE HEADED.
WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT FIGURING IT OUT RIGHT AWAY. IT'S UNIMPORTANT. THERE ARE *MANY WAYS* TO GET THE ANSWERS I SEEK.

BUT IT WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO DELAY, SIR. IF HABAEK GOES BACK TO SUGUK—
HEH HEH! CAN HE GO BACK?
NAKBIN-- THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE-- IS *HERE!*

HE MUST BE VERY CURIOUS ABOUT HOW WE RESUSCITATED HER.
DON'T YOU AGREE, TAE-EUL-JIN-IN?
TOK

THANKS TO *YOU*, I THINK I CAN GET TO HABAEK.
YOU'RE TOO KIND, YOUR MAJESTY.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
WAIT FOR HABAEK--AND DON'T TRY TO DO ANYTHING SILLY.
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT HUMANS SIMPLY CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE ON THEIR OWN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON HERE IN *GWANG-HAN PALACE,* ANYWAY.

YOU'LL COME TO LIKE IT HERE IN TIME.
WHERE AM I?
AM I REALLY ON THE MOON?
A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED, BUT IT'S STILL DARK.
IS IT ALWAYS NIGHTTIME HERE?

IS THAT THE SOUND OF... A FLUTE?
WHO'S PLAYING? I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE HERE...
꺄이아
KRREEE

FREEZE
멈춰!
WHAT?
IT CAN'T BE...
MU...MUI?

NO... HE LOOKS LIKE MUI. BUT IT'S NOT HIM.
SO, YOU KNOW MUI. WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE *YOU?* HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MUI?
I AM *DONG-WANG-GONG.* AND WHOM AM I ADDRESSING?
DONG-WANG-GONG? WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF DONG-WANG-GONG?
NO... SORRY.
NO. THAT'S NOT THE POINT. HOW DO YOU KNOW MUI? PLEASE TELL ME FIRST, AND THEN I'LL TELL YOU WHO I AM.
BUT YOU'VE HEARD OF *WON-YANG-BU BU-SANG-DAE-JE,* HAVEN'T YOU?

OF COURSE I KNOW HIM. MUI IS MY SON.
HOW CAN I BELIEVE YOU? HE'S *NEVER* TOLD ME ABOUT HIS FATHER.
MOREOVER, IF YOU *ARE* HIS FATHER, WHY AREN'T YOU WITH HIM? WHY ARE YOU SO FAR AWAY FROM HIM?
HE THINKS THAT... I AM DEAD.

IT'S ALWAYS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO TELL...
I HAVEN'T SPENT MUCH TIME WITH HUMANS, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM... UNLIKE SOME OTHER GODS.
SHOCK
BY THE WAY, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING. ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE?
HE JUST LOOKS LIKE MUI, THAT'S ALL.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE MUI'S FATHER.
MY NAME IS SOAH.
NOW THEN, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

MUI IS HABAEK'S CHILDHOOD NAME.
SOAH... THAT MEANS "BEAUTIFUL WOMAN."
IF HE HAS TOLD YOU THAT NAME, HE MUST LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.

I AM... HABAEK'S BRIDE.
I WAS TOLD TO WAIT HERE UNTIL HE COMES TO GET ME.
WAIT-- YOU MEAN... MUI IS COMING TO THE *MOON PALACE?*
HE DIDN'T PROMISE ME DIRECTLY, BUT THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.

OH... I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HIM AGAIN THIS SOON...
HE MUST HAVE GROWN SO MUCH. WILL I BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE HIS FACE?
HE ACTS LIKE HE HASN'T SEEN HIS SON FOR A LONG TIME... THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW ABOUT...
BUT HOW CAN HE COME HERE?
THE DOOR OPENS UP WHEN THE SUN, THE EARTH, AND VENUS ARE ALL IN PLANETARY ALIGNMENT.
AND WHEN WILL THAT HAPPEN AGAIN?
UM... IN ABOUT 120 YEARS, I THINK.
WHAT?!

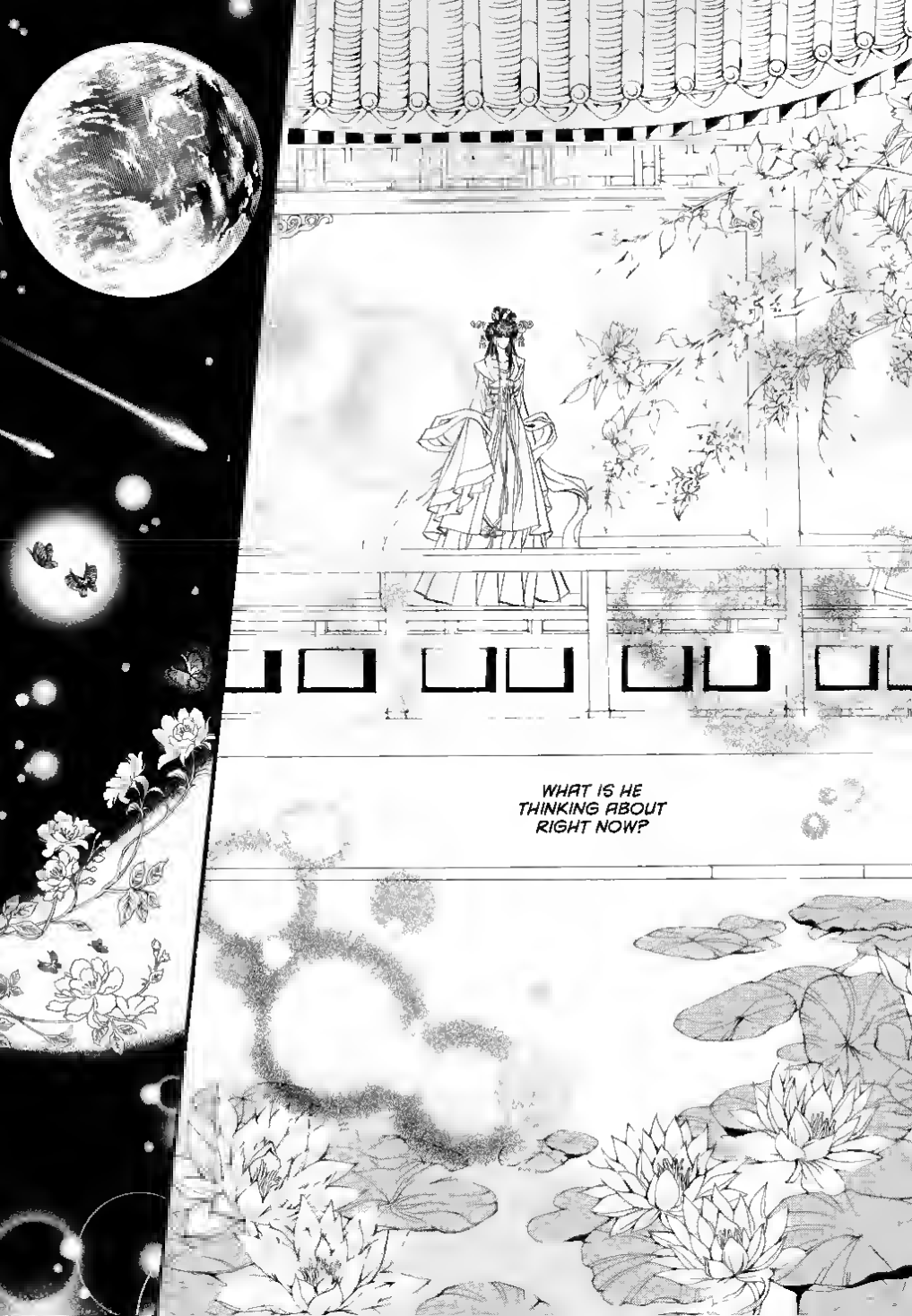
WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED? IT'S NOT A VERY LONG TIME. COMPARED TO HOW LONG *I'VE* BEEN WAITING, 120 YEARS IS NOTHING.
HA HA!
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG HUMANS LIVE?
NOT REALLY. UHHM... AROUND THREE HUNDRED YEARS?
UGH, OF COURSE...
I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM THAT LONG.
HMM...DON'T WORRY. THERE ARE *OTHER* WAYS TO GET HERE.
FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T TRUST HIM!

BY THE WAY, YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE THE ANIMAL I FOUND IN THE CASTLE. THAT'S WHY YOU SEEMED SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR TO ME AT FIRST--
바스락 / KUTCH
AH. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL/ I GUESS IT WAS LURKING AROUND HERE.
WHAT ANIMAL IS HE TALKING ABOUT? ISN'T THE FABLE OF AN ANIMAL LIVING ON THE MOON ABOUT...A RABBIT?
A RABBIT WITH WHITE, SILKY FUR THAT POUNDS RICE CAKES ON THE MOON?

A PANDA?!
HOW COULD A PANDA... LIVE ON THE MOON?
WAIT... A PANDA IS POUNDING RICE CAKES?
OH, HE LOOKS SO ANNOYING...
HEE! HEH HEH!
SERIOUSLY-- HOW COULD HE THINK I LOOK ANYTHING LIKE A PANDA?

IS MUI OUT HERE?

WILL HE REALLY BE... COMING TO GET ME?


WHAT IS HE
THINKING ABOUT
RIGHT NOW?

...WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT OUT HERE, GAZING AT THE MOON ALL ALONE?
HABAEK...

SOMEONE NAMED SOAH... WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT HER, BY ANY CHANCE?
.....
HABAEK, YOU HAVEN'T RESPONDED TO MY SUGGESTION...
...TO RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE WE WERE A COUPLE FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT...

YOU KNOW WHERE SOAH AND BIRYEOM WENT, DON'T YOU?
YES, I DO.
IF YOU GO BACK TO HER, I WILL NEVER TELL YOU HOW TO LIFT THE CURSE AND GET YOUR TRUE BODY BACK.
FREEZE

WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
SNFF

I WISH YOU WOULD SAY THAT YOU'RE STAYING *BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME...*

YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE NOW.
MURA-NIM! HIS MAJESTY GAVE US STRICT ORDERS NOT TO LET ANYONE IN!
YOU'RE QUITE IMPERTINENT, MURA.
I'M BUSY NOW. COME BACK LATER WHEN I CALL FOR YOU.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M USELESS TO YOU NOW?

I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU SAID *TOO MUCH* TO HABAEK AND RUINED MY PLANS. THEN YOU CAME HERE TO SEE ME, INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY? HOW *BRAVE,* MURA.
HMPF! IS *HE* ONE OF YOUR PUPPETS AS WELL?
I DON'T LIKE BEING CALLED THAT. LET'S SAY FOR NOW THAT I'M AN *OBSERVER.*
BECAUSE I SIMPLY ENJOY OBSERVING INTERESTING INTERACTIONS.
I BET YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HELPED BIRYEOM SNEAK INTO THE PALACE!
I CAME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT BIRYEOM. I KNOW SOMETHING... YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW.

BIRYEOM...
DID YOU GET
CLOSE TO ME
JUST TO USE ME
TO GET INTO
THE PALACE?

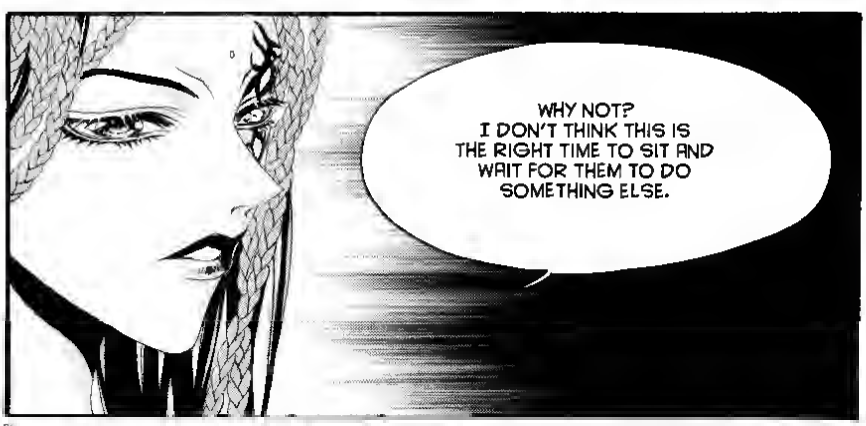
IF THAT'S TRUE...
...I'M NOT GOING TO TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE.
HE IS ON *HAN-SEOM*-- THE MOON-- NOW.

HAN-SEOM?

THEY'VE BEEN HIDING ON THE MOON, AFTER ALL?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? DO YOU WANT TO SEND TROOPS THERE IMMEDIATELY?

NO, WE DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING YET.


WHY NOT? I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME TO SIT AND WAIT FOR THEM TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.

HOW CAN I TRUST THAT YOU'RE NOT LYING TO ME?
AND THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT THE REBEL FORCE'S BASE IS ON THE MOON, EVEN IF BIRYEOM IS HIDING OUT THERE.
SO YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
YOU MAY DENY IT, BUT WHAT IF BIRYEOM HAS DECEIVED YOU-- TRICKED YOU INTO LEADING ME TO HIS TRAP?
IT'S BEEN AN UNWRITTEN RULE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME THAT NO ONE CAN TALK ABOUT HOW TO GET TO HAN-SEOM. VERY FEW GODS KNOW HOW TO GET TO THE CASTLE.

AND THE CASTLE ON THE MOON IS CLOSER TO THE SUN, WHICH MAKES IT AN ADVANTAGEOUS STRONGHOLD FOR YEOM-JE, THE GOD OF FIRE.
THEREFORE, IT'S SMARTER FOR ME TO LURE THOSE REBELS DOWN TO EARTH THAN TO BRING THE FIGHT TO THEM.
THAT'S WHY I NEED HABAEK ON MY SIDE.

WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH HIM?
IS IT REALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO KEEP HIM WITH YOU THAN TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE REBELS ARE?
DON'T TELL ME... YOU WANT HIS WATER POWERS, DON'T YOU?
WATER POWERS...?
IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S POWERFUL, BUT HE'S STILL JUST A CHILD.
THE REASON I WANT HIM--

—IS BECAUSE THE POWER OF FIRE CANNOT HURT HIM.
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, SHINNONG PROMISED SEO-WANG-MO THAT THE POWER OF FIRE WOULD NOT HURT HABAEK.
JUST... BECAUSE HE SAID SO?
IT WAS THE WORD OF THE GODS--A HEAVENLY DECREE-- AND IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL YEOM-JE DIES.

IF I HAVE HABAEK ON MY SIDE, THEN THIS LONG, TIRING BATTLE IS GOING TO END QUICKLY.

AND THEY'RE THE ONES WHO WILL FINISH THIS FIGHT THAT THEIR PREDECESSORS STARTED.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE PARTY IS READY.
OKAY. I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY.

TONIGHT'S THE LAST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE HABAEK STAY?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IF SOAH HAD FIGURED OUT HIS *REAL NAME* FOR ME, BUT...
...I'VE ALREAD SET SOMETHING UP. WE'LL BE FINE.
WSH
DID YOU EXPECT SOAH TO FIGURE IT OUT?
WHAT DID YOU THINK?

NAKBIN HAS FAILED.
RIGHT, SHE FAILED. THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON *SOAH,* WHO COULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN. HOW COULD YOU LOSE HER SO EASILY?
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE REBELS INVADED?
WAIT-- YOU DIDN'T LET THEM ESCAPE, DID YOU, HUYE?
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING YOU TAKE IT.

AND IF YOU CAN'T TAKE IT RIGHT AWAY, YOU BREAK IT-- SO THAT NO ONE CAN HAVE IT. THAT'S THE TRUTH!
SEO-WANG-MO IS RUSHING HERE TO RESCUE HER SON. WELL, SHE'LL KNOW WHICH SIDE TO STAND ON IF SHE REALLY WANTS TO SAVE HABAEK'S LIFE.

GONNG GONNG GONNG
GONNG
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FULL MOON TONIGHT! PERFECT FOR THE PARTY.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. I PROMISE YOU'LL HAVE A LOT OF FUN.
LET'S NOT THINK ABOUT THE SHAMEFUL INCIDENT FROM A FEW DAYS AGO. ENJOY TONIGHT'S PARTY.

YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU ASKED ME TO COME HERE.
YOU PROMISED YOU'D TELL ME TONIGHT.
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
BY THE WAY... SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT *BIRYEOM* IS IN *HAN-SEOM*. I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, THOUGH.
!!
YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO HAVE SOME FUN WHEN THE MOON IS BRIGHT LIKE THIS.

HABAEK, IF YOU THINK THAT SHINNONG IS ON YOUR SIDE, YOU'RE WRONG.
HE JUST WANTS TO *USE* YOU.
TAKE MY HAND. WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN HAVE ANYTHING WE WISH FOR.
YOU *CAN* GET WHATEVER YOU WANT.
!!!
WHAT'S YOUR GREATEST WISH, HABAEK?

STOP, PLEASE!
//

SEO-WANG-MO?!

I'M A LITTLE LATE, IT SEEMS. THE PARTY STARTED EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.

SEO-WANG-MO,
WELCOME.
THE PARTY
JUST STARTED.
NO NEED TO
WORRY.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE YOU LONGER TO ARRIVE, BUT YOU MUST HAVE HURRIED. YOU'VE BEEN REFUSING MY INVITES, SO I WONDERED IF YOU WERE GOING TO ATTEND AT ALL. WELL, I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES, YOUR MAJESTY, FOR BEING A SURPRISE GUEST TONIGHT.
?
AND I REQUEST A *PRIVATE MEETING,* YOUR MAJESTY.
PLEASE HAVE THE OTHERS EXCUSE US.
WOW, WANG-MO IS REQUESTING A PRIVATE MEETING/ THERE MUST BE SOMETHING URGENT TO DISCUSS.

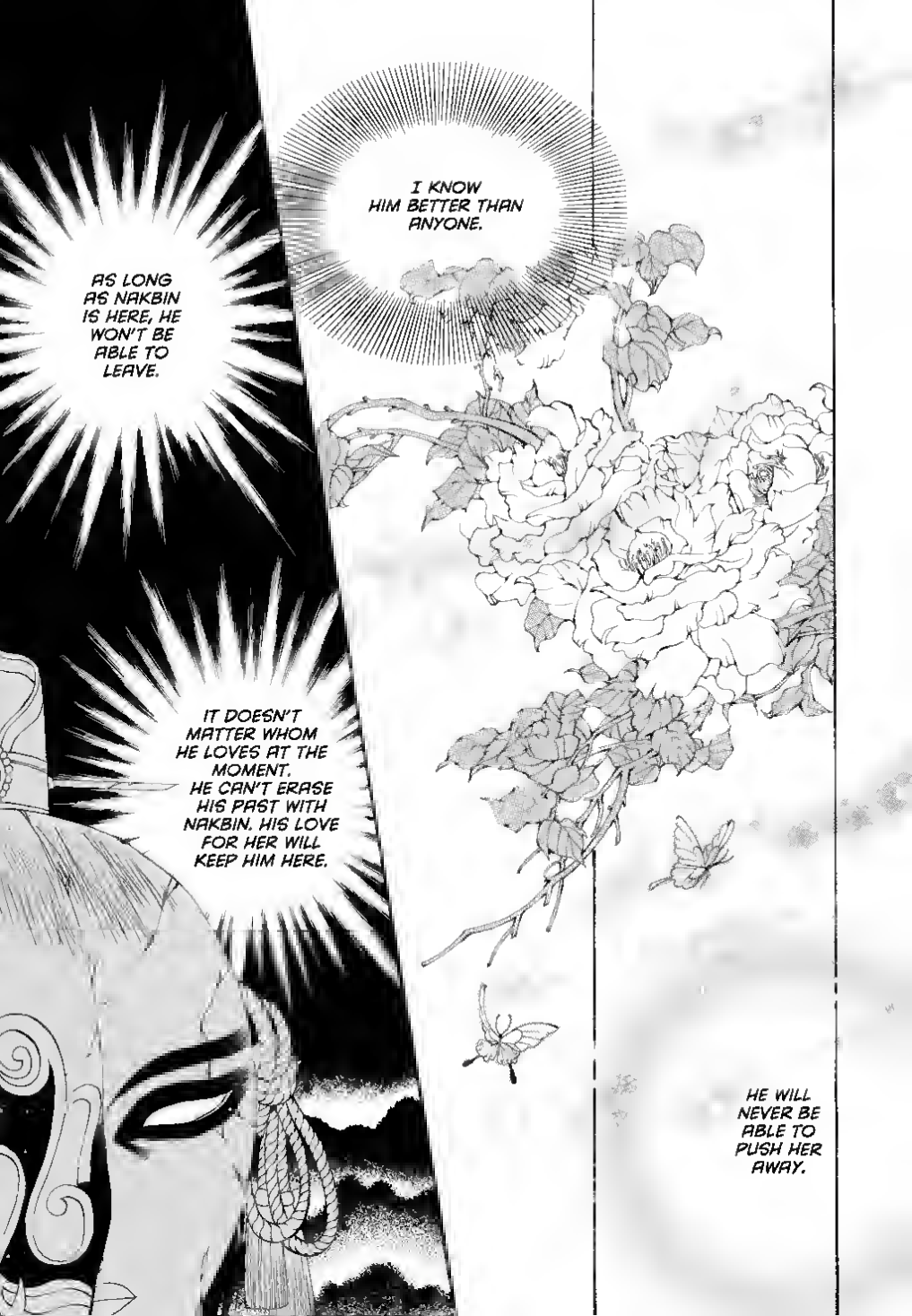
FINE. I'M SORRY, BUT I MUST LEAVE THE PARTY FOR A MOMENT. EXCUSE US.
SO, WHAT WILL YOU OFFER TO SAVE YOUR SON?
YOU DIDN'T COME HERE WITHOUT A COUNTEROFFER.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHATEVER YOU'VE BROUGHT HERE, IT MUST BE SOMETHING TRULY AMAZING. IF NOT, NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR SON WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

WE'RE ALONE. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?
SINCE YOU'RE IN SUCH A *RUSH,* I'M GETTING ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT. WHAT'S SO URGENT?
PLEASE LET HABAEK GO, YOUR MAJESTY. HE IS NOT CUT OUT FOR WAR.
AH, IT IS A *DIFFICULT ISSUE,* AS I EXPECTED.

ISN'T YOUR GOAL TO WIN THE BATTLE?
THAT'S WHY I NEED HIM EVEN MORE NOW. HABAEK IS GOING TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE.
THEN--IF I PROMISE TO GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT, WILL YOU LET HIM GO?
I WILL GIVE YOU *YEOM-JE-SHINNONG'S LIFE* IN RETURN.

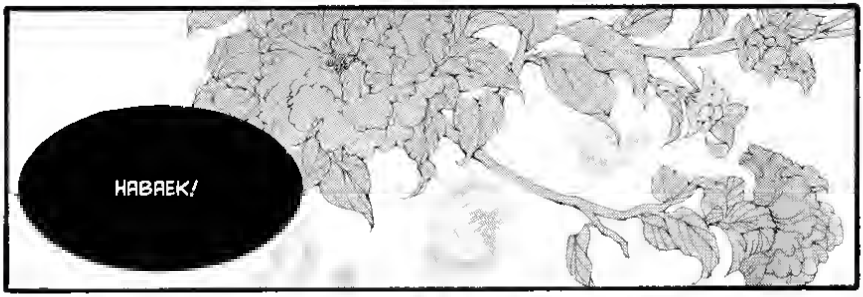
HEH HEH HEH/ YOU ARE INDEED SEO-WANG-MO.
HMM... THIS IS MORE THAN I EXPECTED...
AH, YOU DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT, DO YOU?
THAT'S NOT IT. I KNOW YOU'LL DO WHATEVER YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO FOR YOUR SON.
HWSH
BUT I'M NOT SURE HABAEK ACTUALLY WANTS TO LEAVE.

IF HE WISHES TO STAY HERE BY HIS OWN FREE WILL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
HE CAME HERE, AND IF HE STAYS HERE, WELL, THAT'S UP TO HIM. I CAN'T FORCE HIM TO STAY OR GO, SO I CANNOT PROMISE ANYTHING IN RETURN.


I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE.
AS LONG AS NAKBIN IS HERE, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOM HE LOVES AT THE MOMENT. HE CAN'T ERASE HIS PAST WITH NAKBIN. HIS LOVE FOR HER WILL KEEP HIM HERE.
HE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PUSH HER AWAY.

FWUP
FWUPPA
CHEE
PIREE
"I REQUEST A *PRIVATE MEETING,* YOUR MAJESTY. PLEASE HAVE THE OTHERS EXCUSE US."

AFTER THEIR MEETING, SHE REFUSED TO SEE ME.
IS MOTHER REALLY THINKING OF TAKING THE EMPEROR'S SIDE?
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, BECAUSE MOTHER HATES HUMANS...
FWUP
FWUPPA
HABAEK...
WHAT DID SHE TALK ABOUT WITH THE EMPEROR?


HABAEK!

THAT VOICE IS...

WSH

파닥
WHP
FWPP
FWPP

BIRYEOM?

YES, IT'S ME. I ESCAPED, AND I'M IN A SAFE PLACE NOW.
YEAH, I CAN TELL BY YOUR VOICE.
YOU KNOW THAT I'M IN HAN-SEOM, DON'T YOU?
IT'S NOT JUST ME. THE MAJESTY KNOWS ALREADY, TOO.

AH... DOES HE?
WELL, I FIGURED HE'D FIND OUT, BUT IT'S NOT EASY TO GET TO HAN-SEOM. WE'LL BE SAFE FOR A WHILE.
PLUS-- OUT HERE,SO FAR AWAY FROM EARTH, YEOM-JE'S POWER OVER FIRE IS STRONGER. THE EMPEROR WILL BE WARY.
BUT... AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT HOW SOAH IS DOING?
OHK!
SHE'S BEEN QUIET, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WANTS YOU TO COME GET HER.
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL COME HERE?

YOU JUST SAID IT'S NOT EASY TO FIGURE OUT THE WAY TO HAN-SEOM.
I CAN TELL YOU THE SECRET.
ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
WHAT IF YOU TELL ME, BUT I SIDE WITH THE EMPEROR?

HA HA HA! YOU JOIN THE EMPEROR? THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
WELL, THEN WE HAVE SOAH AS A HOSTAGE, JUST IN CASE.
DON'T YOU MISS HER?
YOU CAN LOOK INTO WATER AND CHECK ON HER.
NO, I WON'T DO THAT.
WHAT? WHY NOT?

IF I *SEE* HER, I'LL WANT TO *TOUCH* HER.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST GOING TO MEET HER. I NEED TO CONTROL MY DESIRES.
HABAEK!

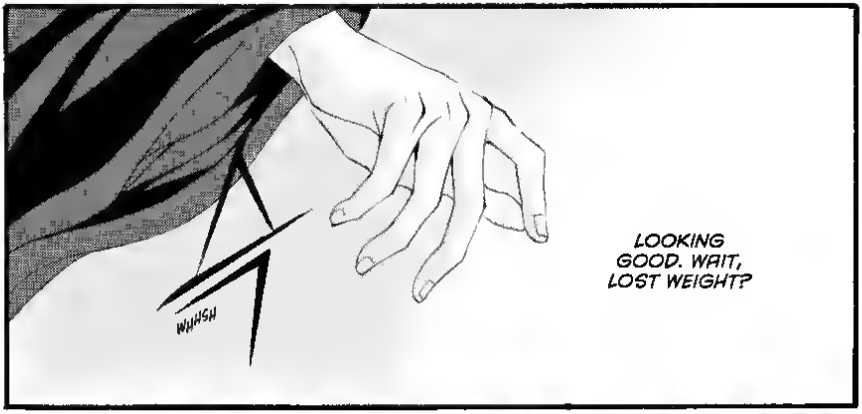
DID YOU REALLY SAY THAT SNIVELING, SENTIMENTAL CRAP?
YOU USUALLY TREAT HER SO... BLUNTLY. YOU BETTER BE NICE TO HER WHILE YOU CAN!
SHUT UP!
ANYWAY, I WILL TAKE SOAH TO THE POND DURING THE HOUR OF THE OX.
SO IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU SEE HER OR NOT.
FWUP FWUPPA
.....

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE? THIS PLACE IS... SO DARK. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S NIGHT OR DAY.
IT MUST BE VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING ON EARTH NOW. IT IS SAID THAT THIS POND SURPASSES THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES ON EARTH.
IF YOU MISS EARTH, YOU CAN COME HERE. IT MAY BRING YOU COMFORT.
DOESN'T IT LOOK A LITTLE LIKE SUGUK, SOAH?

툭
PAPP

THIS PLACE DOES LOOK LIKE SUGUK. IT'S ALMOST AS IF I'M BACK IN SUGUK...

IS EVERYONE... DOING OKAY THERE?
BIRYEOM... HE'S SO UNREASONABLE.


WHISH
LOOKING GOOD. WAIT, LOST WEIGHT?

AIREN...*
NOTE: THE KOREAN WORD AIREN IS WHAT A HUSBAND CALLS HIS WIFE OR THE MOST PRECIOUS LOVE IN HIS LIFE

...THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME I SEE YOU.

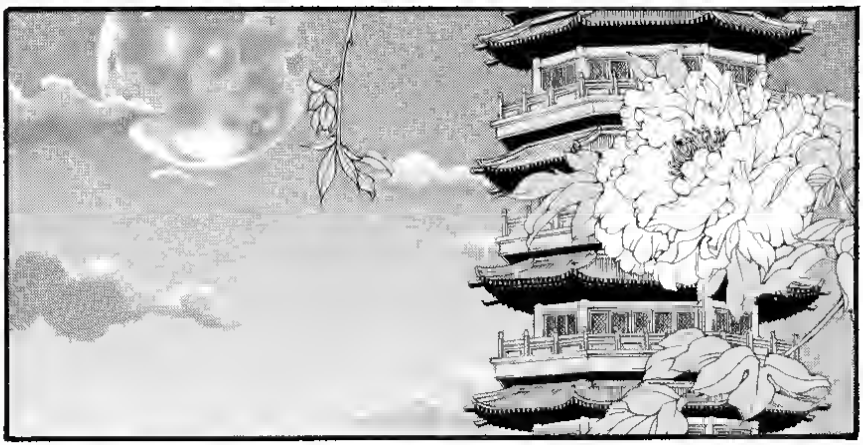
HOW FAR IS THIS PLACE FROM SUGUK?
IT FEELS VERY FAR AWAY...

MUI...
YOHEE... JU-DONG... EVERYBODY... WILL I SEE THEM AGAIN?
I WANT TO GO BACK...
...BACK TO LIFE IN SUGUK...

SHE LOOKS STRONG, BUT SHE MUST BE SUFFERING INSIDE. SORAH IS JUST A HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

KNEEL
I, BIRYEOM, AM HONORED TO SEE YOU, DONG-WANG-GONG.
GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO, BIRYEOM, BUT WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE ALONE WITH HABAEK'S BRIDE?
I BELIEVE THAT HABAEK WANTS TO SEE HER. I BROUGHT HER HERE SO THE WATER GOD COULD VIEW HER IN THE POND.
HABAEK CAN SEE HER, BUT SHE CAN'T SEE HIM? THAT SEEMS VERY UNFAIR.
FWIP
AH...THAT IS...

DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU SEE HABAEK?
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN TAKE ME BACK HOME?
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RETURN, BUT I CAN HELP YOU SEE HIM FOR A *MOMENT.* THAT IS, OF COURSE, IF YOU WANT TO.
I CAN SEE...
...HABAEK?



WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE YOU CONFIDENT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP HABAEK HERE?

IT SEEMS HIS MAJESTY HAS *HIGH EXPECTATIONS* CONCERNING YOU...

DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO FAIL?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT *YOU*, BUT I'VE BEEN STUDYING HABAEK FOR A WHILE. I BELIEVE I KNOW HIM QUITE WELL...
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW IF YOU CAN *KEEP HIM HERE.* PERHAPS YOU KNOW HIM BETTER THAN I DO. YOU MUST SENSE THAT...
...HE LOVES SOAH MORE THAN HE THINKS HE DOES...

...BUT HE HAS CHOSEN YOU FOR THE TIME BEING.
WHO WILL HE ULTIMATELY CHOOSE, IF HE CAN ONLY SAVE EITHER YOU OR SOAH?

SHUT UP. HOW DARE YOU TRY TO COMPARE ME TO THAT PERSON.

I'VE KNOWN HIM LONGER, AND HE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME BEFORE HE MET HER.
IF THINGS HADN'T ENDED THE WAY THEY DID, HABAEK WOULD HAVE NEVER FALLEN IN LOVE WITH SUCH A GIRL.

HOLY SHIT
BUT THE FACTS ARE...YOU TWO *DID* SEPARATE, AND HABAEK *HAS* FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER.
OH, BY THE WAY-- HOW DOES IT FEEL...
...TO LOOK DOWN AT YOUR OWN DEAD BODY?

YOU CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING THAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. AND YOU WON'T SURVIVE IF YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE.
IF YOU STAY HERE, HABAEK WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE, EITHER.
SO THE WAY THIS IS WORKING OUT, IT SEEMS THAT HIS MAJESTY WILL ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF KEEPING HABAEK HERE.

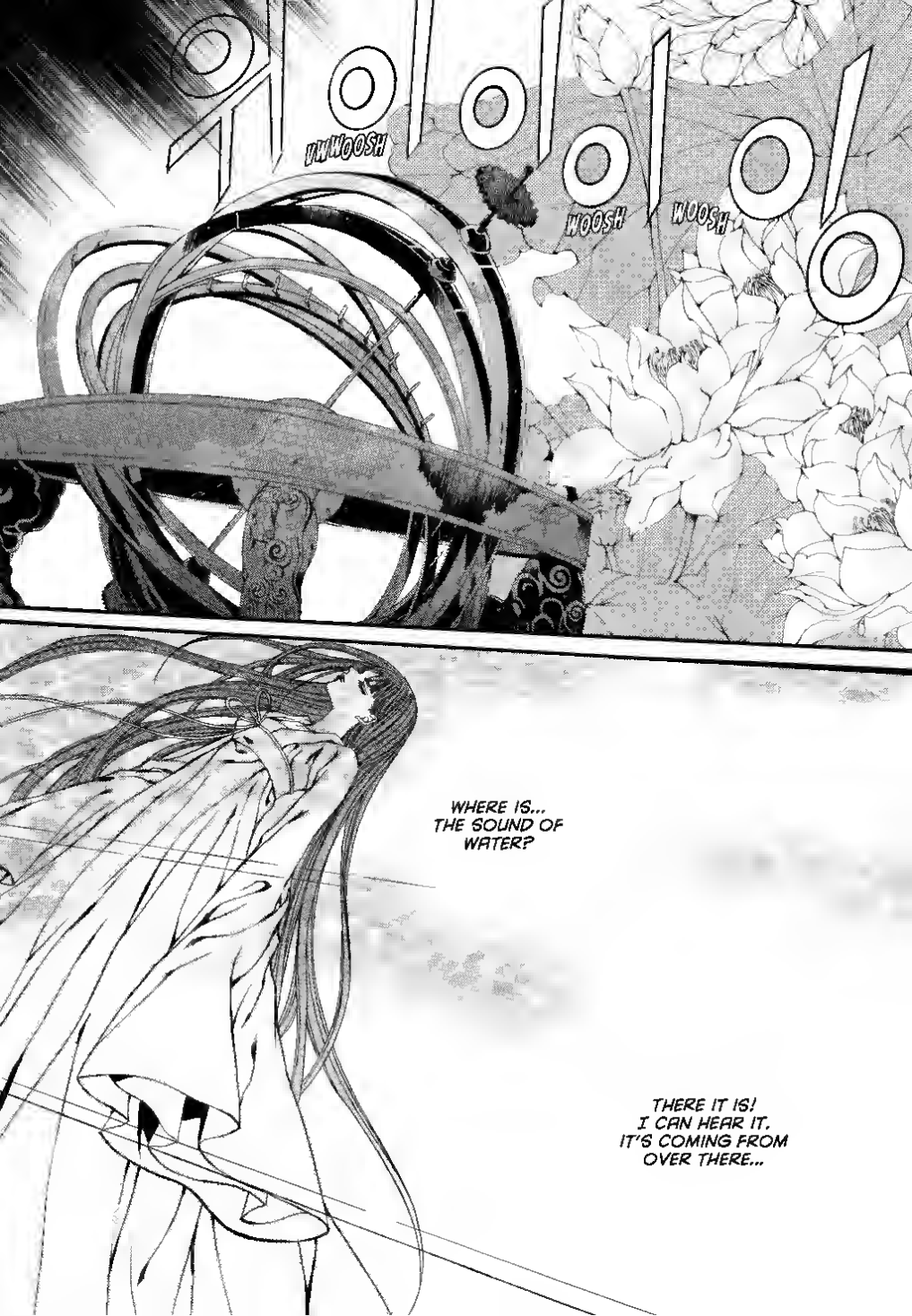
THERE'S ONE THING I NEED TO SAY BEFORE YOU GET TO SEE HABAEK.
BIRYEOM SAID THAT YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD HABAEK.
HABAEK WAS *PRETENDING* THAT HE LOST SOME MEMORIES IN ORDER TO TRICK THE EMPEROR.
HABAEK... DIDN'T LOSE HIS MEMORIES?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE REALLY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
I'M SERIOUS-- HE *DIDN'T* LOSE HIS MEMORIES.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE WAS PRETENDING, BUT HE MUST HAVE DONE IT TO PROTECT YOU.
HE EVEN ASKED ME TO IGNORE HIS ODD BEHAVIOR.
IN FACT, THE REASON I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PLACE WAS SO HE COULD SEE YOU...BECAUSE HE *WANTS* TO SEE YOU.
NOW, THEN, LET'S CONTINUE...

IN ORDER TO SEE HIM, YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR BODY HERE AND SEND YOUR SPIRIT OUT TO HIM.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU, BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU OR TALK TO YOU.
LIKE BIRYEOM SAID, HABAEK CAN SEE YOU THROUGH THE WATER, AS HE CAN SEE ANYTHING, ANYWHERE, IN THE UNIVERSE.
AND THROUGH THE WATER HERE, WE CAN SEND OURSELVES OUT TO SEE PEOPLE ELSEWHERE.

IF YOU DON'T TRUST HABAEK...
...WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HIM IN PERSON AND FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU MISUNDERSTOOD HIM?
THIS ISN'T ALTOGETHER EASY, BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO DO IT, I'M WILLING TO HELP YOU.
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO USE THIS TRICK. IT CONFLICTS WITH MY POWERS OF FIRE. BUT YOU WILL BE FINE, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE HABAEK'S BRIDE.
I'LL DO IT. I WANT TO DO IT. I WANT TO SEE HIM.
OKAY.

BUT HOW DO I FIND HABAEK?
FOLLOW THE SOUND OF WATER, AND YOU'LL END UP FINDING HABAEK.
BASICALLY, THE WATER HERE IS CONNECTED TO ALL THE WATER ON EARTH.


WHOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WHERE IS... THE SOUND OF WATER?
THERE IT IS! I CAN HEAR IT. IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE...

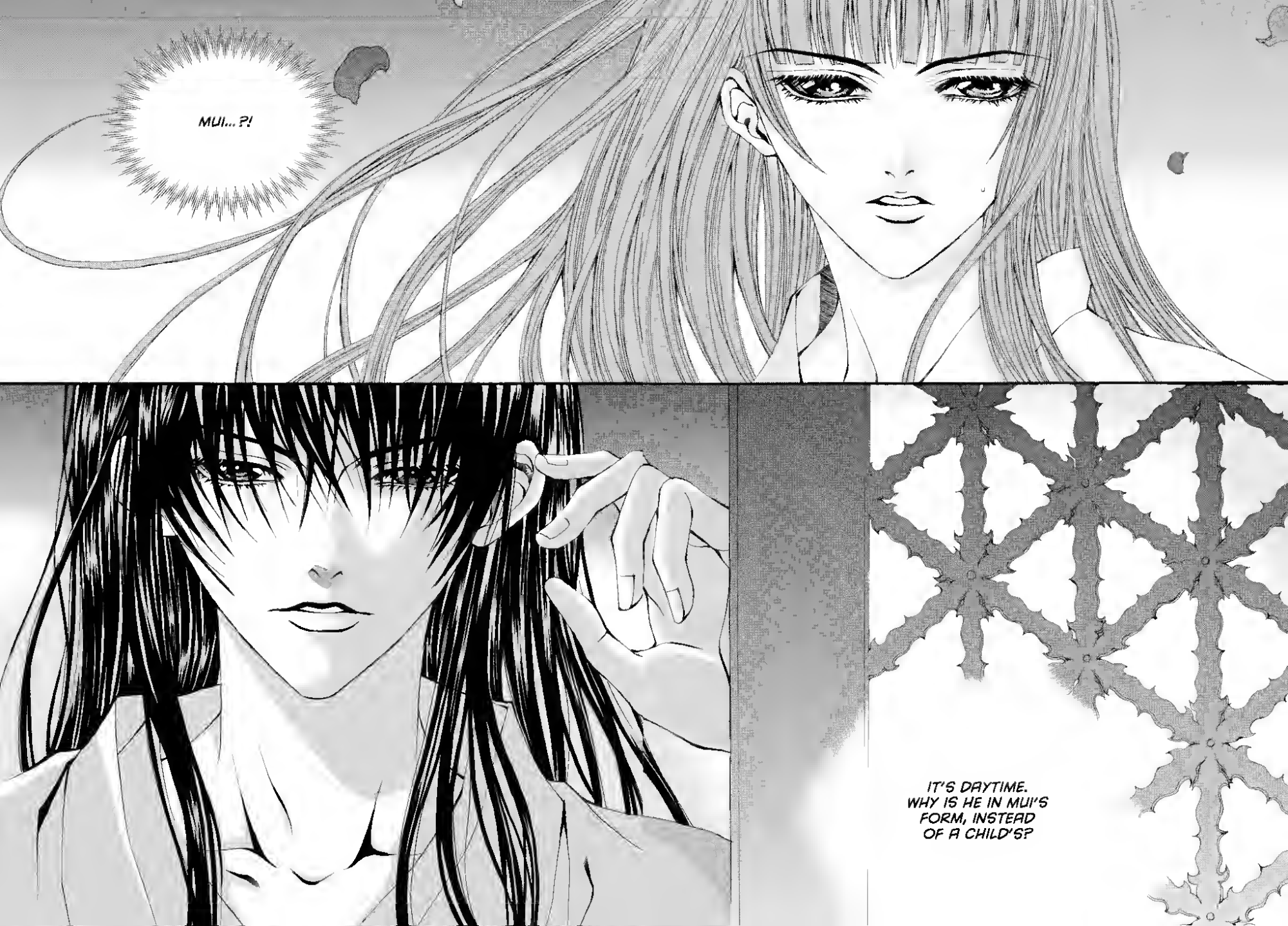
IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY? IT'S SAFE, ISN'T IT?
SHE'LL BE FINE.
WELL, IN SOME CASES, THERE IS A RISK OF DEATH...
AH...
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY UNDER YOUR BREATH?!
"A RISK OF DEATH"...? THAT MEANS IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS!
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY. SHE'LL BE JUST FINE.
A HUMAN SHOULD EXPECT A LITTLE RISK IF SHE'S GOING TO BE IN LOVE WITH A WATER GOD.

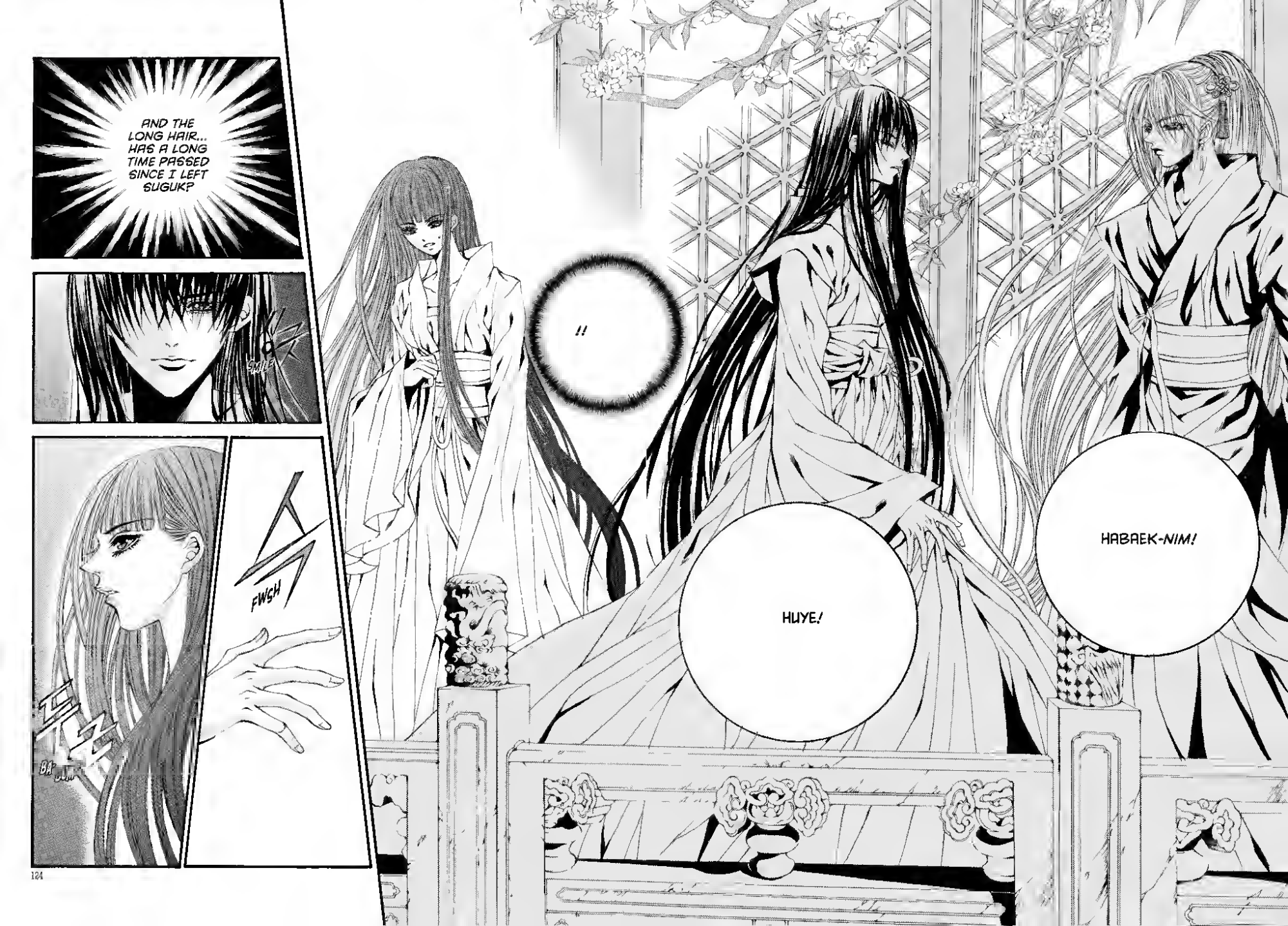
OH, WAIT--
BY THE WAY...
AH, OF COURSE...
KNOWING HIM, HE'S
THOUGHT THIS ALL
THE WAY THROUGH
AND HAS LEFT
NOTHING TO
CHANCE!
DID I TELL HER
HOW TO COME BACK...?
HA HA HA!
OH, NO!
NO, HE DIDN'T!
DAMN!
HABAEK IS REALLY
GOING TO KILL ME
THIS TIME!

VWEEN
KOOM KROOM KROOM
FWOOOSH
IS THIS... SUGUK?!

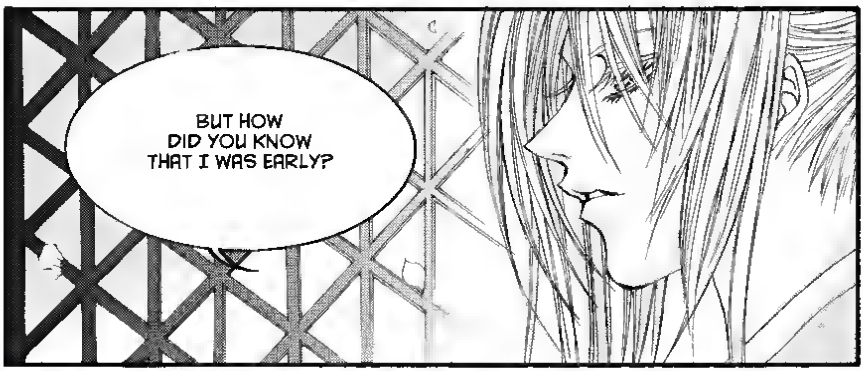
I'M SUPPOSED TO TRAVEL TO HABAEK...WHY DID I END UP IN SUGUK INSTEAD OF THE EMPEROR'S PALACE?
IT'S FAMILIAR... THIS MUST BE SUGUK.
HABAEK MUST BE BACK IN HIS OWN PALACE ALREADY.
BUT WHAT IF... HABAEK IS NOT HERE YET? DONG-WANG-GONG DIDN'T WARN ME ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
BUT WHY WAS I SENT TO SUGUK?
HABAEK-NIM--

HABAEK?
THIS ROOM... IT'S WHERE I FIRST MET HABAEK...
HABAEK-NIM, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING HERE?
AH, YUK-OH. I WAS JUST REVIEWING SOME LETTERS. I HAVE SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER...
WAIT! SOMEBODY IS LISTENING TO US OUTSIDE.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. NO ONE WOULD DARE COME HERE--AM I WRONG?
CHHK


MUI...?!
IT'S DAYTIME. WHY IS HE IN MUI'S FORM, INSTEAD OF A CHILD'S?


AND THE LONG HAIR... HAS A LONG TIME PASSED SINCE I LEFT SUGUK?
SMILE
FWSH
BA BUM
!!
HUYE!
HABAEK-NIM!

YOU RETURNED EARLY? WHAT HAPPENED?
IT FINISHED EARLIER THAN I'D EXPECTED, SO I JUST CAME BACK.


BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I WAS EARLY?

I JUST HAD A FEELING.

HABAEK AND HUYE TOGETHER... SUGUK LOOKING SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I REMEMBER...
MAYBE THIS PLACE IS...

GENERAL HUYE WAS JUST WITH YOU. DID I INTERRUPT YOU, BY ANY CHANCE?
HABAEK!
NAKBIN!
OF COURSE NOT...

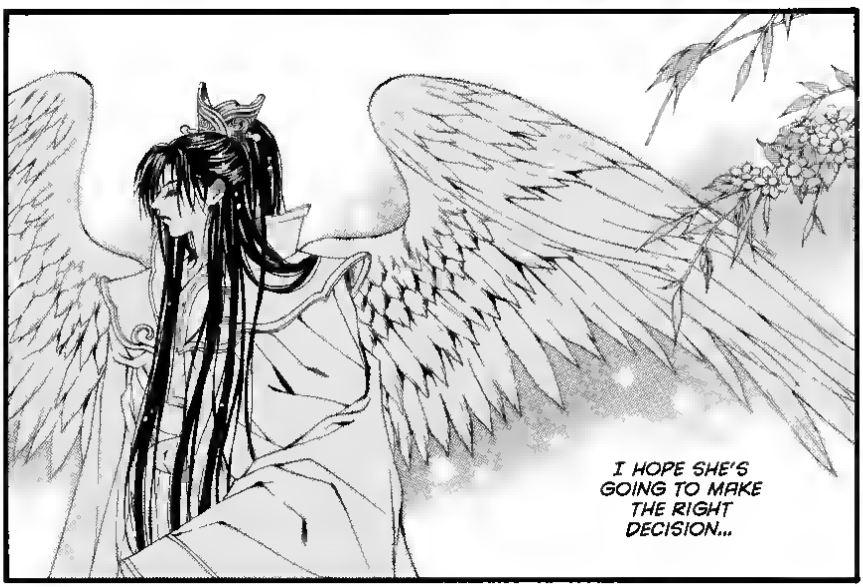
...MY BRIDE.

HABAEK IS SO HAPPY. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH JOY ON HIS FACE.
WHY WAS I SENT TO A SUGUK OF THE PAST?
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SEE. WHY AM I HERE?

SHOULD WE REALLY JUST BE SITTING AROUND WAITING LIKE THIS?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOAH! SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO COME BACK TO US. WHAT DO WE DO?
WELL, SHE CAN ONLY EXIST IN THAT STATE FOR A LIMITED TIME, SO IT'LL BE FINE.
SHE SHOULD RETURN WHEN THE TIME IS UP.
BUT...I'M MORE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT *DECISION* SHE'S GOING TO MAKE UPON HER RETURN.

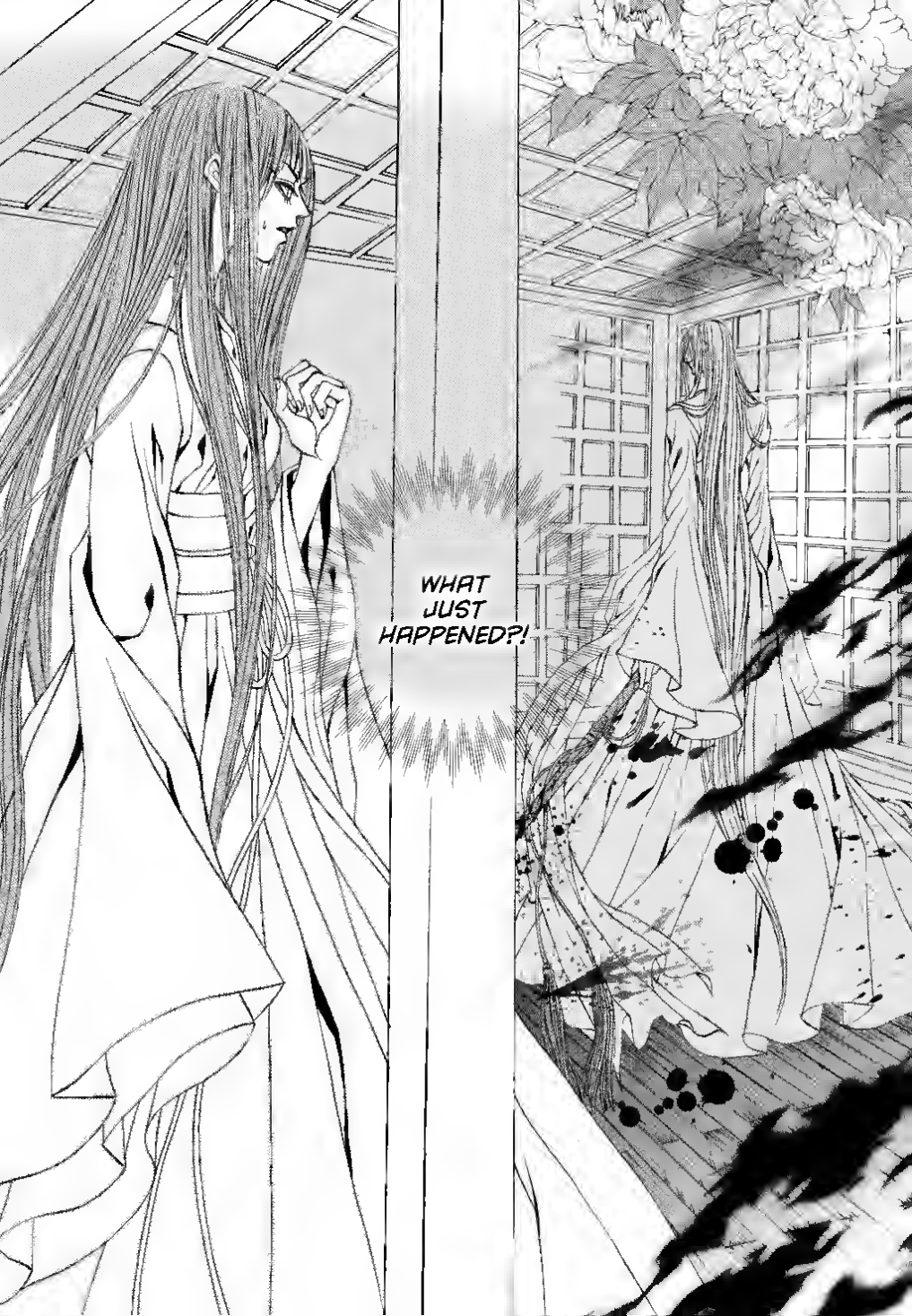
WILL ANY GOOD COME FROM SENDING HER THERE-- OR JUST MORE TROUBLE?
.....
PLEASE STOP PRETENDING YOU CARE! YOU WEREN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT SORA UNTIL I BROUGHT IT UP.
HMPH!


I HOPE SHE'S GOING TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION...

WHAT'S THE USE OF SEEING MUI IN THE PAST? HOW WILL THAT CLEAR THINGS UP?
AND WHAT CAN I DO HERE?
I JUST WANT TO GO BACK.

콰앙
KATHOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE SOUND CAME FROM OVER THERE...

휘이이이
HWOOO
휘이이이...
KRR KRR KRR
WHAT IS GOING ON?


WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

NAKBIN...?
NO...NAKBIN...
HABAEK'S IN HIS CHILD FORM NOW? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

"I'M BEING PUNISHED."
"I'M BEING PUNISHED BECAUSE I COULDN'T PROTECT THE PERSON I LOVE..."
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
MAYBE... I...
o o

AM I HERE SO I CAN FIND OUT THE SECRET OF HABAEK'S CURSE?

QUESTIONS FOR THE HEAVENS
WHO BROUGHT ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD? WHO BRINGS THE DARKNESS BY CLOSING THE SKY? AND WHO LIGHTS UP OUR EXISTENCE BY OPENING THE SKY?

KRAK
KRAK
BUT WHY DID HUYE DO THIS TO NAKBIN?
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

HABAEK-NIM, IT'S DANGEROUS! YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!
THOOOM
!!

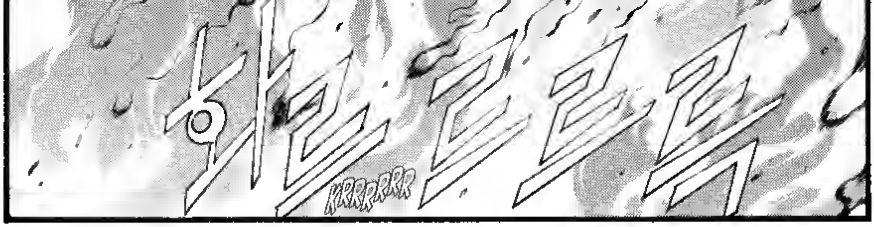
FWAPP
WHY...?
!!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG.
KRRR
SHE HAD AN ORDER FROM THE EMPEROR TO TRY TO KILL YOU.
KRIK KRAK
THAT WAS HER SPECIFIC INTENTION FROM THE START.
KRIK KRAK
!!

KRRK
IT'S NOT FAIR TO BE LEFT WITH THIS CURSE! IF YOU'D SIMPLY ASKED ME TO DIE, I WOULD HAVE DIED FOR YOU...
HABAEK-NIM!
IF YOU'D ASKED ME TO GIVE IT TO YOU... I WOULD HAVE...
...MY LIFE... IF YOU'D ASKED FOR IT...

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET, HABAEK?
NAKBIN?
THE SPELL I CAST ON YOU WILL WEAKEN YOUR POWERS DURING THE DAYTIME.
YOU WILL BE USELESS DURING THE DAY, DURING THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GOD OF THE SUN AND YEOM-JE.
THIS WAY, THE EMPEROR WILL LOSE ALL INTEREST IN YOU.
SWFF
I AM SICK AND TIRED OF THESE GAMES... BEING USED BECAUSE OF YOU...

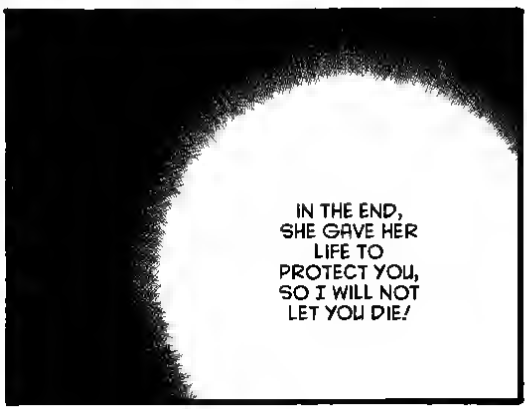
...SO...
...GOODBYE.
"YOU SHOULD ESCAPE, HABAEK. RUN AWAY FROM THE EMPEROR."


KRRRRR

I'M NOT LEAVING HER.
YOU GO AHEAD, HUYE.

NO! YOU COULD DIE IN THIS FIRE! YOUR POWERS HAVE BEEN WEAKENED!
콰앙
GRA
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I JUST GAVE UP FOR YOU? MY SISTER ALIGNED HERSELF WITH THE EMPEROR IN ORDER TO SAVE ME...


IN THE END, SHE GAVE HER LIFE TO PROTECT YOU, SO I WILL NOT LET YOU DIE!

THOOM
WELL, WELL, THIS IS ONE MOVING SCENE.
WHO ARE YOU?!

HEH! HOW SHOULD I INTRODUCE MYSELF? LET'S JUST SAY I AM THE ONE WHO TAUGHT NAKBIN HOW TO USE THE CURSE AGAINST HABAEK-NIM.
AND I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU HOW TO BREAK THE SPELL.
WHAT?
SO...THERE'S A WAY TO BREAK THE SPELL?
THERE'S A WAY TO RID HABAEK OF HIS CURSE?
HOW?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO LIFT THE CURSE, AND THAT IS...

...THE ONE WHO LAID THE CURSE ON HIM MUST REMOVE IT.
NONSENSE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SHE'S DEAD!
ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S NO WAY TO REMOVE THE CURSE, THEN?

SHE IS HALF HUMAN.
WHEN GODS DIE, THEIR BODIES AND SOULS GO UP TO *T'AI MOUNTAIN*, BUT HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT. THEY ARE REINCARNATED REPEATEDLY.
IF YOU TRICK THE HUMANS INTO SACRIFICING BRIDES TO THE WATER GOD...
...THEN, SOMEDAY, NAKBIN WILL BE REINCARNATED AND WILL RETURN TO SUGUK.
THEN, HABAEK-*NIM*, YOU WILL NOT ONLY GET YOUR LOVED ONE BACK. YOU'LL ALSO FIND THE ONE WHO CAN REMOVE THE CURSE.
OH, NO...

THEN...THE REAL REASON ALL THOSE GIRLS WERE SACRIFICED TO THE WATER GOD WAS...
...JUST SO NAKBIN WOULD BE REINCARNATED? EVEN THOUGH IT COULD TAKE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF YEARS... JUST FOR ONE PERSON... SO MANY DEATHS...

WAIT! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
MY HANDS ARE STARTING TO FADE!
AM I GOING BACK NOW? NO! WAIT! I DIDN'T HEAR HOW TO REMOVE THE CURSE YET!
NO! STOP IT! NOT NOW!

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Text on facing page · LOTUS LOVE POINT

愛蓮亭

IN RETURN, HABAEK-NIM WILL BE KNOWN AS AN EVIL, HATED GOD WHO MAKES THE HUMANS SACRIFICE THEIR OWN PEOPLE.
WILL THAT BE ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

I DON'T CARE. I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
SHKF
I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER CRITICISM I'LL GET, AS LONG AS I CAN SEE HER AGAIN. BUT HOW WILL I RECOGNIZE HER?
HABAEK-*NIM*?!
I CAN PUT A FORCE FIELD AROUND SUGUK SO THAT NO BRIDE CAN GET IN, ***EXCEPT*** FOR NAKBIN.
THE BRIDE WHO ENDURES THE WAVES AND THE WIND TO REACH SUGUK WILL BE NAKBIN REBORN.

"I THINK MUI BELIEVES THAT YOU ARE THE REINCARNATION OF NAKBIN."
IS THAT WHAT TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM WAS TALKING ABOUT?
BUT THEN, HOW WAS I ABLE TO GET INTO SUGUK?

ALL RIGHT, THEN, THE PRICE FOR MY PROMISE IS...
.....

WHAT? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? I CAN'T HEAR THEM...
휘이이이잉
VWNNN

NO! I CAN'T GO BACK YET!
PLEASE! A LITTLE MORE...
HABAEK...
스르르
IN'OOO
OOOSH!
파앗

HABAEK-NIM, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH...IT'S NOTHING. NEVER MIND.

번쩍!
FWASSH
!!
ARE YOU AWAKE, SOAH?
ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU SEE MUI?

DONG-WANG-GONG-NIM... DID YOU SEND ME TO THE PAST ON PURPOSE?
WHY? WHY DID YOU SEND ME TO THE SUGUK OF THE PAST?
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TELLING YOU IN ADVANCE, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIS PAST BEFORE YOU SEE HIM AGAIN.
YES, I DID IT.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHATEVER IT IS YOU'VE SEEN. WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU STILL WANT TO GO TO HABAEK AND SEEK OUT THE TRUTH?

YES. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE REALLY HAS IN MIND.
I COULDN'T BLINDLY TRUST HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE ASKED ME TO TRUST HIM NO MATTER WHAT.
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A REASON... IF HE HAD TO LIE TO ME...

I WANT TO TRUST HIM THIS TIME.
GOOD. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE DECIDED, I WILL DEFINITELY HELP YOU GET TO HIM.

.....
DONG-WANG-GONG...

SHHHK
SEO-WANG-MO-NIM.
I HEARD THAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME.
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, KEUM-MO-NIM. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
(KEUM-MO IS ONE OF SEO-WANG-MO S OTHER NAMES)
YOUR CHEOL-SUL-JI-KI HAS ALREADY PASSED, NAKBIN. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
(CHEOL-SUL-JI-KI THE DATE OF ONE S DEATH)
ARE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE DOO-SOOK'S EYES AND DISRESPECT THE OTHER GODS?
(DOO-SOOK: ONE OF THE CONSTELLATION GODS WHO, AS A GROUP, ARE IN CHARGE OF ALL DEATHS IN THE UNIVERSE)

YOU AND HABAEK WERE UNITED BY ACCIDENT AND DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE. STOP DECEIVING HIM. LET HIM GO.
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THE EMPEROR IS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COVER BOOK-DOO-SUNG-GUN'S EYES. AND CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S USING YOU AGAIN? HE'LL PROBABLY JUST THROW YOU AWAY LATER.
(BOOK-DOO-SUNG-GUN THE BIG DIPPER. THE SEVEN GODS WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF DEATH.)
YOU HAVE... A JADE BAT. BUT WHY DO YOU WEAR ONLY HALF OF IT?
IT'S SAID THAT A BAT SYMBOLIZES A HAPPY MARRIAGE. DOES DONG-WANG-GONG, YOUR HUSBAND, HAVE THE OTHER HALF?

EVEN THOUGH HABAEK AND I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE COUPLE THAT THE ELDER WOL-HA ORDAINED...
...WE DID DRINK THE WINE FROM THE NUPTIAL CUP... WE GAVE OUR WEDDING TOAST.
OTHERS MAY NOT UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU SHOULD, KEUM-MO-*NIM*. YOU KNOW HOW PAINFUL IT IS TO BE AWAY FROM THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE.

I WOULD GIVE HIM EVERYTHING, EVEN MY LIFE. I HAVE NO DESIRE FOR ANYONE ELSE.
SO PLEASE ALLOW ME TO STAY WITH HIM, QUEEN MOTHER. PLEASE...
?
LISTEN TO ME. IF YOU KEEP BREAKING THE RULES, YOU MAY NEVER BE ALLOWED TO REINCARNATE.

DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM*! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

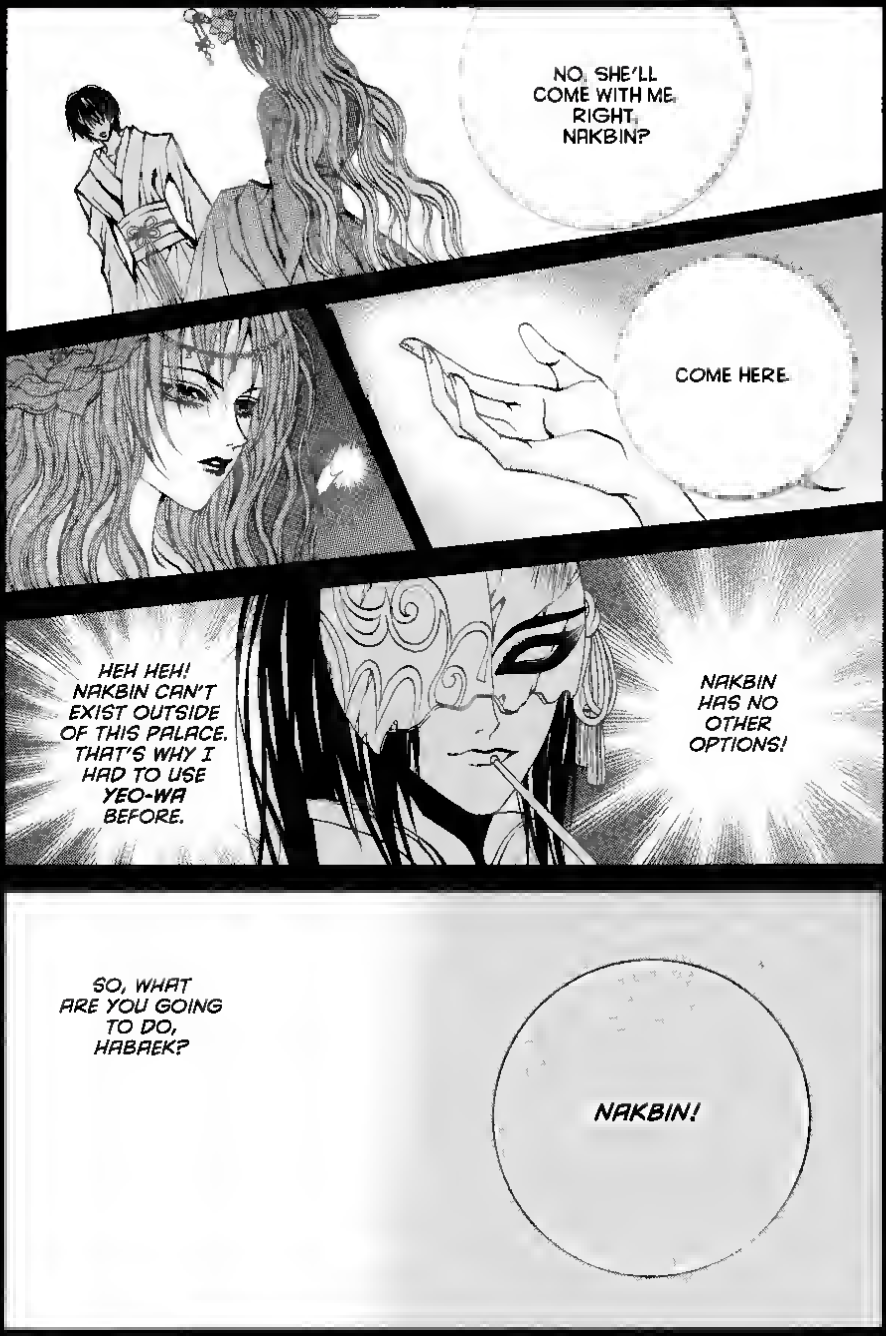
WHAT'S GOING ON?

DO YOU THINK SORAH WILL BE ABLE TO FIND HABAEK THIS TIME?
I THINK SO.

BIRYEOM...

YES, DONG-WANG-GONG-NIM?
NO, IT'S NOTHING. NEVER MIND. I JUST FEEL... HELPLESS TODAY.
I FEEL SO POWERLESS. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR THEM...
스르륵
uuuuu

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON IS OVER. AS YOU PROMISED, YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS TIME FOR NAKBIN AND I TO RETURN TO SUGUK.
OH, NO! WANG-MO IS FINALLY HERE. WHY HURRY OFF?
AND IT'S GOING TO BE MY BIRTHDAY SOON. WHY DON'T YOU STAY UNTIL THEN?
DOES NAKBIN REALLY WANT TO GO TO SUGUK SO SOON? WHAT IF SHE WANTS TO STAY HERE?

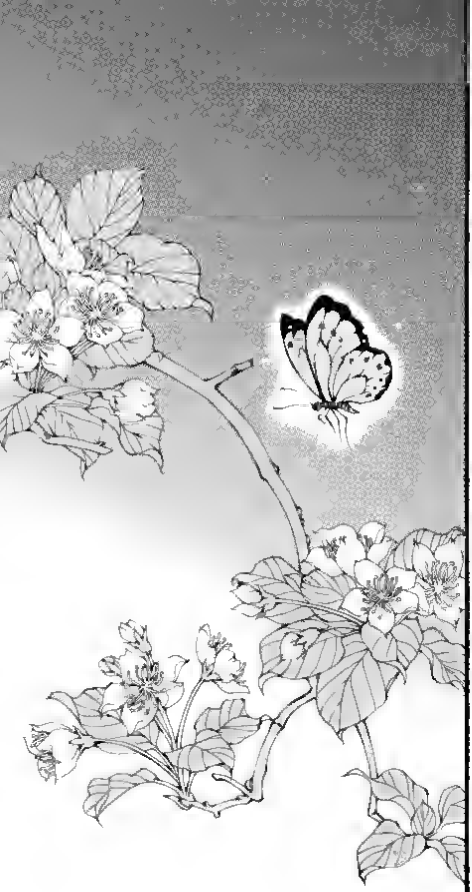

NO. SHE'LL COME WITH ME. RIGHT, NAKBIN?
COME HERE.
HEH HEH! NAKBIN CAN'T EXIST OUTSIDE OF THIS PALACE. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO USE YEO-WA BEFORE.
NAKBIN HAS NO OTHER OPTIONS!
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HABAEK?
NAKBIN!

HABAEK...
I'M THE ONLY BRIDE FOR YOU, RIGHT?
I...I'M SORRY, NAKBIN...I HAVE... SOMEONE ELSE...AND I MADE A VOW TO BE A TRUE HUSBAND TO HER FOR AS LONG AS WE BOTH LIVE...

I'M IN LOVE WITH *HER*, BUT I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU. DON'T WORRY.

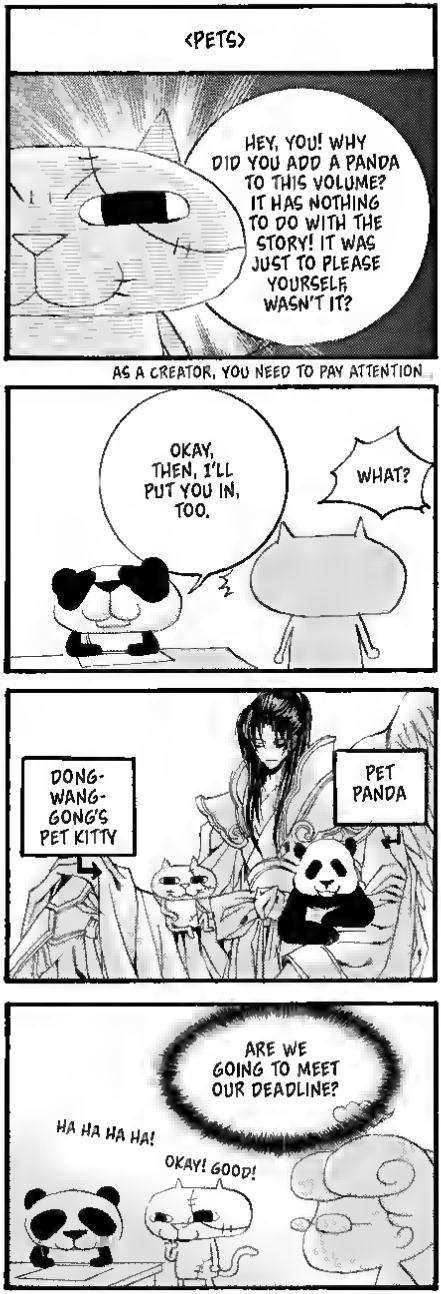
IS THIS HOW MUI TRULY FEELS IN HIS HEART?
WHY DIDN'T YOU... JUST LIE TO ME?
SHUKK

MUI!
I WILL NEVER TELL YOU HOW TO BREAK YOUR CURSE--NOT IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT!



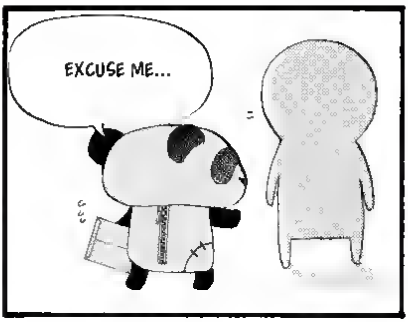
<MI-GAENG'S ☆CLOSING DIARY>☆

("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME)

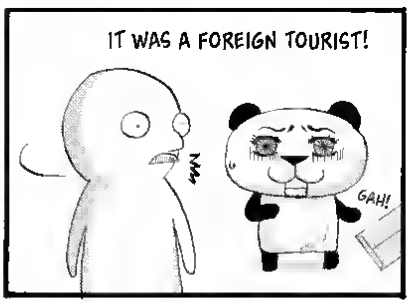

<PETS>
HEY, YOU! WHY DID YOU ADD A PANDA TO THIS VOLUME? IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY! IT WAS JUST TO PLEASE YOURSELF, WASN'T IT?
AS A CREATOR, YOU NEED TO PAY ATTENTION.
OKAY, THEN, I'LL PUT YOU IN, TOO.
WHAT?
DONG-WANG-GONG'S PET KITTY
PET PANDA
ARE WE GOING TO MEET OUR DEADLINE?
HA HA HA HA!
OKAY! GOOD!

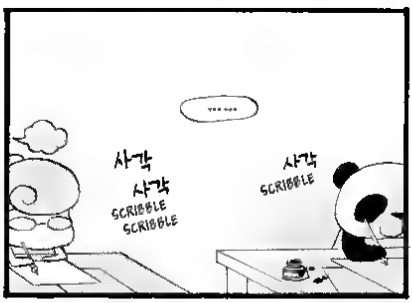
<NO SENSE OF DIRECTION>
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, I WENT TO SEOUL BY MYSELF TO SEE MY EDITOR. I GOT LOST.
I'LL ASK SOMEBODY FOR DIRECTIONS.

<RADIO STORY>
AND FROM OUR NEXT LISTENER... "I'M WATCHING A WOMAN STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD AND TRYING TO ASK A FOREIGNER A QUESTION IN KOREAN."


EXCUSE ME...

WAAH! HA HA HA!
AAH! HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!


IT WAS A FOREIGN TOURIST!
GAH!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사각 사각
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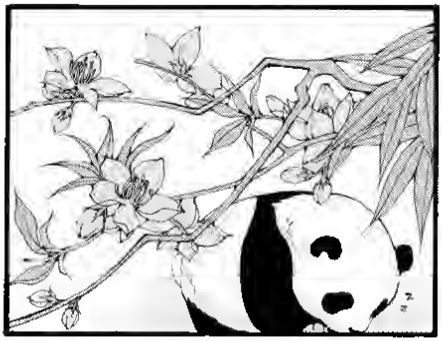
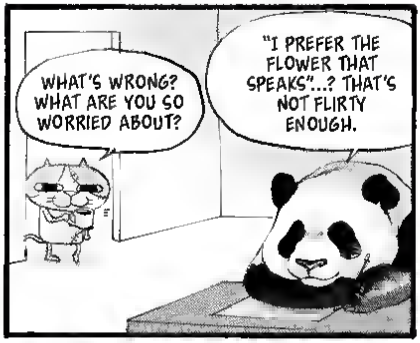
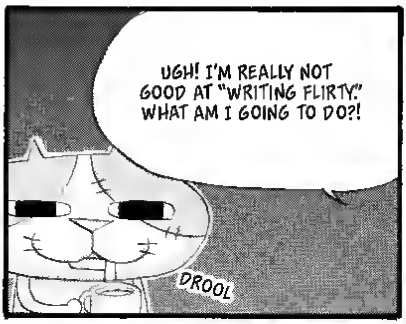
사각
SCRIBBLE

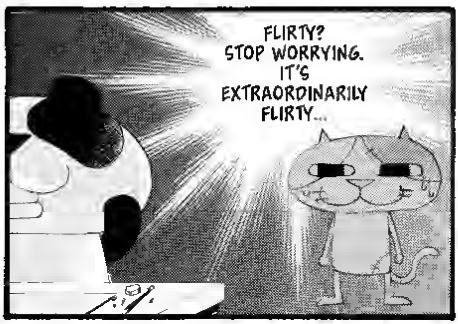
BUT...I COULDN'T STOP.
KOREAN
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET TO SHIN-YONG-SAN?
KOREAN
SORRY! I DON'T KNOW. SORRY!
I WAS SO EMBARRASSED!

I'M SURE SHE PROBABLY HAS A GOOD REASON FOR DOING THAT, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND HERE...





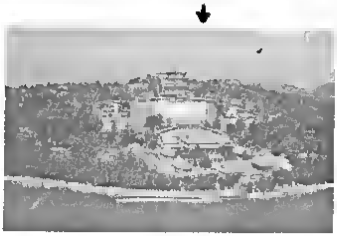




SUGUK

WHEN I DECIDED ON THE SETTING OF SUGUK, I ENVISIONED A CASTLE ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WATER. I GOT THE IDEA FROM THE SUMMER PALACE OF EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI. IT'S THE CLOSEST TO WHAT I IMAGINE SUGUK WOULD LOOK LIKE.

A PICTURE OF THE SUMMER PALACE. THE LAKE THAT IT SEEMS TO BE FLOATING ON WAS CREATED BY EXTENDING AN EXISTING BODY OF WATER



MUI'S "I PREFER THE FLOWER THAT SPEAKS" LINE IN THIS VOLUME WAS TAKEN FROM THE WORDS OF EMPEROR XUANZONG TO YANG GUIFEI. HE DESCRIBED YANG GUIFEI AS A FLOWER THAT HEARS AND UNDERSTANDS HUMAN WORDS. IT SEEMS LIKE XUANZONG COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY FLIRTATIOUS MAN. HEH HEH!

IT'S MY TENTH VOLUME! WHEN I DREW THE FIRST VOLUME, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE TENTH, BUT I DID. I WOULD HAVE RUN AWAY A LONG TIME AGO, IF I HAD TO DO THIS ALL BY MYSELF. I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN READING UP TO THIS POINT. MY THANKS GO OUT TO THE READERS AND ONLINE FRIENDS WHO ENCOURAGE ME ALL THE TIME, EUN-JEONG (WHO HELPS WITH THE WORK), YOON-HEE, AND KYUNG-AE. THANK YOU! AND THANKS TO MY EDITORS, WHO HELP ME FIX THE FLAWS IN MY WORK. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HELP--AND SORRY! (ESPECIALLY TO EDITOR SEUNG-YEON LEE, WHOSE PHOTOSHOP SKILLS IMPROVE EVERY DAY BECAUSE OF ME!)

I WILL DO MY BEST UNTIL THE VERY END, SO PLEASE STICK WITH ME! I WILL GIVE IT MY ALL. —MI-KYUNG YUN

I feel that this tenth volume of *Bride of the Water God* is the most meaningful of them all. It's said that the number ten symbolizes "completion" or "fulfillment," and I find myself looking back and reflecting on my work on *Bride of the Water God* up to this point—on how I've been creating and fulfilling the promise of the story. If I get back to work on the eleventh volume, I plan to work harder than ever! It'll seem as if I've returned to the time when I worked on the very first volume. Back to square one! I'd like to say "thank you" to everyone who has journeyed down this path with me so far. I hope that you'll stay by my side until the end, although I don't know when that end will come! ^_^

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

10

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Trapped in a luxurious castle on the moon, Soah is still separated from her husband, Habaek, who's dealing with his own troubles in the emperor's fortress. Cursed to live in the body of a child during the day—when his elemental powers are weaker—Habaek is also being manipulated by the emperor of the gods, who wishes to use Habaek's powers over water to turn the tide in an escalating civil war! The ghost of Habaek's former human bride, his deceptive mother, and a host of bickering, elemental gods are also in the mix, complicating Soah's efforts to be reunited with the one she loves.

The gorgeous, detailed artwork in writer/artist Mi-Kyung Yun's *Bride of the Water God* series has made it a best-selling series in the United States and Korea—where it's begun a run as a television series—and Yun received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization.

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